

# DEPARTMENT OF STATE



August 4, 1976

No. 364

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE  
HAMILTON SHIRLEY AMERSINGHE  
August 4, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

As the Law of the Sea Conference resumes in New York this week, I want to offer you the views of my Government on the importance of cooperative progress to resolve the major outstanding issues remaining before us.

As you know, it is the belief of the United States that this Conference has been engaged in one of the most important diplomatic negotiations in history. No current matter on the international agenda is more vital for the long-term stability and prosperity of our planet. Unless the competitive practices and claims of nations can be harmonized, the world could well face the prospect of mounting contention, or even conflict.

The achievements of the Conference thus far give us hope that a successful conclusion is possible — one which all nations and groups of nations should find satisfactory. But we have now come to a point where rapid, responsible and cooperative progress is indispensable. The world community now faces the possibility that domestic pressures of many nations may set in motion unilateral national moves which could gravely impair the chances of achieving a treaty in the near future, if at all. Thus it is vital that this current session of the Conference be successful.

The United States attaches the utmost importance to this objective. I will attend the Conference during the week of August 9, and at other times throughout the session will give the work of the Conference my personal attention. The leaders of all delegations and their governments share a heavy responsibility to work conscientiously and with perseverance. If we do so, I am convinced that it will be possible for us to resolve the major remaining issues during this session.

For further information contact:

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As always, Mr. President, your leadership will be of great importance. I want to convey to you my own appreciation, and that of the Government of the United States, for the work you have done.

I regret that I will not have the opportunity to meet with you before your departure for the meeting of the non-aligned nations in Colombo. But I want to assure you now that you may count on the continuing commitment of the United States Delegation to work with you and with all others at this session in a spirit of mutual cooperation. We have, Mr. President, an opportunity and a duty to make this Conference a cornerstone of a new era in international affairs which brings peace, prosperity and justice to all peoples.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

s/s

Henry A. Kissinger